



**TEACHERS,
EDUCATORS,
YOUTH
LEADERS...**

Come see us this Winter at the Outdoor Teacher Resource Center We're here to help with:

- Lesson plans and hands on activities for the conservation classroom
- Education Trunks
- Children's book library, videos, and posters
- Grant information and more...

Call 816-759-7305 and schedule an appointment with an education consultant.

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Outdoor Teacher

GORMAN DISCOVERY CENTER

WINTER 2009

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES: EAGLE DAYS

Discover nature with your family and catch a glimpse of our national symbol, the American Bald Eagle. To the surprise of many, Missouri is one of the leading bald eagle states. Each Fall thousands of these great birds migrate south from their nesting range in Canada and the Great Lake states to hunt around the open waters of our rivers and lakes. Missouri, because of its many rivers, many lakes and wetland area, is especially attractive to these huge, magnificent birds. More than 2000 bald eagles are reported in Missouri regularly during winter, making our state one of the leaders in the lower 48 states. You have two opportunities near the Kansas City area to view bald eagles.



Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge: Mound City, MO

On December 5-6, 2009 the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern MO. will be hosting Eagle Days. Squaw Creek is best known for its large concentration of eagles, snow geese, and other waterfowl. There will be live eagle shows and educational stations around the refuge for you to learn more about eagles. For additional details and directions check the web at www.midwest.fws.gov/squawcreek.

Smithville Lake: Smithville MO

On January 9-10, 2010 Smithville Lake will have live eagle shows brought to you by Operation Wildlife. The eagle shows will take place at the Paradise Pointe golf course. Show times on Saturday are as follows: 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday shows are scheduled for 11:00, 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. There will be spotting scope stations at the lake for you to catch a glimpse of an eagle in the wild. The golf course is located in Little Platte Park at 18212 Golf Course Rd. Smithville, MO 64089. If you have questions contact the Jerry Litton Visitor center at 816-532-0174 or check their website at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/sm/EagleDay.cfm



Missouri's winter eagle watching is spectacular and we hope you'll join us at either Squaw Creek or Smithville Lake to catch a glimpse of this majestic bird, the American Bald Eagle. Don't miss these events to DISCOVER NATURE with your family.

TEACHERS GONE WILD

Want an opportunity to just have FUN? Here it is! Teachers Gone Wild is designed just for YOU, the educator! It's a time for teachers to be free to create, enjoy a hike, learn a skill and in the process be nature nourished. These events allow time for teachers to network, and have FUN, FUN, FUN! The following are upcoming events:

Holiday Crafts: Tis the season to be crafty, Fa la la la, la, la,



Join us as we create and share holiday ideas. Enjoy "hot chocolate" as we take examples from the beauty of nature and create holiday gifts and decorations. The first hour will be spent creating crafts that you can share with your family, friends, and students. The second hour we'll show you how you can bring the outside world inside your home for the holidays. You will create your own decorative craft for you home or gift to a friend. **This session is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2009 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ the Discovery Center. To enroll please contact Kathie May or Sally Bell (side bar pg. 1)**

Reservations required by November 20th

Eagle Express

Education Consultant Kathie May will be your guide while riding on the eagle express. Spotting scopes will be accessible for you to view bald eagles that are visiting Smithville Lake during this winter season. While on your journey you can enjoy the live eagle show and other activities that are available at Eagle Days. Once registered, you will receive additional information for your journey. **To enroll please contact Kathie May (side bar pg. 1)**

Reservation required by January 7th



Learning is something that takes place no matter the age, gender, or social economic background. Teachers Gone Wild places educators on the other side of the teachers desk. Now it's your turn to have fun while learning an exploring nature. Don't miss out on the next "Teachers Gone Wild", join the club and stay tuned for future opportunities.

DISCOVER NATURE SCHOOLS UPDATE

The Education Consultants of Clay, Platte, and Jackson Counties are pleased to announce the following schools as DISCOVER NATURE SCHOOLS (Nature Unleashed 3-5th grades and Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems) for 2009-2010.



Teacher comments from trainings:

- *The class was very informative and helpful. I look forward to being a DNS school!*
- *This was great! I know this will help with our science GLE'S!*
- *The entire program was worth my time. The structure of the training and the program works very well. Trainers were well equipped with knowledge, expertise and information.*



NATURE UNLEASHED

Chapel Hill – North Kansas City School District
 Davidson Elementary – North Kansas City School District
 George Melcher Elementary – Kansas City Missouri School District
 IRA Environmental Science & Math – Imagine School Academy
 John Nowlin Elementary – Blue Springs School District
 Lakewood Elementary – North Kansas City School District
 Our Lady of Presentation – Diocese of KC-St. Joseph
 Santa Fe Trail Elementary – Independence School District
 Scuola Vita Nuova – Charter School
 St. John LaLande – Diocese of KC-St. Joseph
 Universal Academy

CONSERVING MISSOURI'S AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Eastgate Middle School – North Kansas City School District
 Grandview Middle School – Grandview School District
 Holliday Montessori—Kansas City Missouri School District
 James Bridger Middle School – Independence School District
 Lincoln College Prep Middle School – Kansas City Missouri School District
 New Mark Middle School – North Kansas City School District
 Oakhill Day School
 Raytown Central Middle School – Raytown School District
 Raytown South Middle School – Raytown School District
 St. Paul's' Episcopal Day School—Diocese of Western Missouri
 St. Patrick School – Diocese of KC-St. Joseph
 St. John LaLande - Diocese of KC-St. Joseph
 Grain Valley Middle School—Grain Valley School District
 St. John Francis Regis— Diocese of KC-St. Joseph



WOW! The Missouri Department of Conservation has expanded the Discover Nature Schools program by reaching over 2760 students from the Kansas City area. If you are not listed above we hope that you can join this group of schools in the 2010-11 school year. If you would like information on the Discover Nature Schools program, contact your local Education Consultant. **For Clay, Platte, and Jackson County contact Sally Bell, Claudine Lamb, or Kathie May, (side bar pg. 1).**

For Lafayette, Johnson, and Cass County contact Betty Ream at (660)530-5511 ext. 248.

For Buchanan and Clinton County contact TJ Peacher at (816)271-3111 ext. 235.

For Ray County contact Adam Brandsgaard at (660)646-3140 ext. 235.



Missouri Dept of Conservation

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Growing Up WILD

Seeds are planted and provided with essential elements to promote their growth. An early childhood educator is an essential element in the growth of a child. Growing Up WILD is a 128 page curriculum guide that will assist you in connecting children to nature. This interdisciplinary tool will tap into you students creativity and sense of wonder while exploring the outside world.



We know that students learn in a variety of ways, each activity provides you variety of options so that your students can learn at a level that's geared toward their individual needs. **Join us on Friday, February 1 from 5-8 p.m. There's is a \$12 materials fee. To enroll contact Sally Bell, Claudine Lamb, or Kathie May, (side bar pg. 1).**

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Taking students outside to study will be an extra treat for ten schools that received outdoor classroom grants for the 2009-2010 school year. These schools in the Kansas City Metropolitan area will be working with educational consultants, master gardeners, and other resource individuals in building an outdoor learning space. They will receive 3 hours of in-service to learn how to use this space to meet grade level expectations in communication arts, math, science and social studies.



The following schools received grants from the Missouri Department of Conservation: Attucks Elementary, Calvary Lutheran School, Kansas City Academy High School, Niles Home for Children, Liggett Trail Education Center, Lutheran High School, Raytown South Middle School, St. Gabriel's Early Childhood Center, St. Mark's Children and Family Development Center, and Wee Care Center in Raytown.

This school year marks the end of the outdoor classroom grants as it existed in years past. Discover Nature Schools has become the umbrella for the outdoor classroom grant. To qualify for this grant your school needs to be actively engaged in the conservation education program: Discover Nature Schools. **For additional information check out the website www.mdc.mo.gov or contact Sally Bell, Claudine Lamb, or Kathie May, (side bar pg. 1).**